



Hon. Pedro R. Pierluisi
Statement for the Record: H.R. 3644, “Ocean, Coastal, and Watershed Education Act”
Committee on Natural Resources Markup
Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

I would like to express my strong support for H.R. 3644, which I am co-sponsoring, and to commend Ms. Capps for introducing it. This bill would formally codify two NOAA-administered programs to promote public awareness and public education, especially among our nation’s youth, regarding the importance of protecting our natural environment.

Because of the funding authorized under these two programs—which have been in operation for a number of years—thousands of children and adults have learned about our watersheds, our oceans, our coasts, and our atmosphere—and how our actions can protect or imperil them. There are few things more important than responsible stewardship of our planet—and so I believe this is money well spent.

I am grateful to Ms. Capps for the provision in her Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute that would authorize NOAA to establish new regional B-WET offices and to give priority consideration for the expansion to the U.S. territories, along with the Great Lakes and Alaska.

I look forward to Puerto Rico's inclusion in this program, and I respectfully urge my colleagues to favorably report H.R. 3644 with the funding levels authorized under the bill.

Thank you Ms. Capps. And thank you, Chairman Rahall.